

**FINAL  
AGENDA**

**FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF BELEN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, STATE OF NEW MEXICO, COUNTY OF VALENCIA TO BE HELD ON MONDAY THE 10<sup>th</sup> OF DECEMBER 2018 AT 6:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL, 100 SOUTH MAIN STREET, BELEN, NEW MEXICO 87002.**

ALL P & Z COMMISSION MEETINGS ARE VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDED.

*A COPY OF THE AGENDA MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY OF BELEN PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT.*

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGEANCE**
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Minutes of November 13, 2018
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENT 3 MINUTE PRESENTATIONS:** If more time is needed for presentation, please ask to be scheduled on the next agenda.
- 7. DISCUSSION**  
Comprehensive Plan
- 8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
  - a. Communication from the Commission and Staff
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

/s/  
Lisa R Miller, Planning & Zoning Administrator

cc: Mayor & City Council  
News Bulletin

Belen Chamber of Commerce  
Belen Recreation Center

Belen Public Library  
Belen City Hall



Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – 3 MINUTE PRESENTATIONS**

There were none.

**PUBLIC HEARING WITH POSSIBLE ACTION**

**DISCUSSION**

**Comprehensive Plan**

Steven Tomita informed the Commission that he has missed a couple of the discussions on the Comprehensive Plan and asked for an overview of where the Commission left off and what was discussed.

Lisa Miller informed them that they left off at page 30. At the last meeting, going back over the charts and graphs was discussed, because of the information that the Commission has been provided with.

Vice Chair Pete Armstrong said that he thought that they had gone up to page 50 of the document.

Steven Tomita said that the Commission has finished the first major part of the document. They have moved faster than he had anticipated.

Chairman Steve Ethridge said that it was understood that they would read through it and make some changes and then go back over it for a more thorough editing later.

Steven Tomita said that the Commission needs to stop where they are and go back over the changes that they have made before going forward in the document. The next section of the document is where they will be setting goals, etc. He asked if the Commission had started on the land use section of the Comprehensive Plan.

Vice Chair Pete Armstrong said yes. They were going to start at the Future Transportation Network area of the document.

Steven Tomita said that they need to see all the changes that have been made so far before going forward.

Lisa Miller said that the Commission did not go over the land uses.

Vice Chair Pete Armstrong said that they did because he has comments written on his document that concern the different land uses.

Steven Tomita said that they need to go back to the beginning and start working on the charts and graphs.

Vice Chair Pete Armstrong said that they had decided to start at the year 2015 and remove anything up to that year on the different tables.

Steven Tomita said that part of that was the fact that we did not have current numbers. Now that they have current numbers they can start incorporating them into the tables.

Commissioner Jim Lardner said that he feels that the historical numbers should stay.

Steven Tomita said they should at least include the year 2000 and going forward from there.

The Commission discussed the numbers for the tables.

Steven Tomita said that the information that was given to them are samples that can be obtained from Census Bureau website.

Chairman Steve Ethridge asked if they need to start on the second reading of the documents and fill in data or take data out.

Steven Tomita said they are going to start looking at the data in the tables and making any changes that need to be done.

Vice Chair Pete Armstrong commented that a lot of work went into the document but there is a lot of information that is not relevant to today. He said they need to establish a baseline on where they want to start measuring from.

Steven Tomita said that the 2015 is a good place to start but when it goes into the histories or forecasts, they need to show the existing now compared to at least 10 years.

Vice Chair Pete Armstrong said that there needs to be some consistency throughout the document. When they get the document completed, it is only good for five years and then it has to be updated.

Chairman Steve Ethridge said that table 1 starts with 1060 information and table 2 starts with 1970 information. He suggested removing the year 1960 from table one, add the other municipalities on table two.

Commissioner Jim Lardner said that way he is looking at these tables is that they are the history of this area. He feels it is important to keep the history and just add onto the data for the years 2010 and above.

Vice Chair Pete Armstrong said that he does not disagree with him but feels that there is a better way to present it. Maybe use just one table that covers the history and then the other tables pick up the 2010 and above data.

Steven Tomita said that he thinks he is going to have to get more information. He will check with the Census data to see if it can give us a history. We need to look at what information we have available, which include 2016 numbers.

Vice Chair Pete Armstrong said that the Census is only done every 10 years.

Steven Tomita said that is why the data on the table shows in 10 year increments, but the Census Bureau has the numbers for 2016.

Commissioner Jim Lardner said in order to keep consistency throughout the document and add the 2016 numbers.

Steven Tomita suggested that table 1 consist of the years 2000, 2010, and 2016 numbers and also do the same for Table 2. The same should be done for the graphs.

The Commission agreed. They discussed the relevance of including all of Valencia County data to the graphs.

Steven Tomita said that the big usage of this document and the data in it is if we were going after grants, etc., the government looks at the numbers and the fact that we have an updated Comprehensive Plan helps. Businesses will look at it to see if we are growing or not and make a decision to either invest or not. They also look at what our work force is.

Commissioner Jim Lardner asked if the County data was included, would it paint Belen in a negative way or would it help Belen.

Chairman Steve Ethridge agreed and said that was why he asked if we even needed all those charts. The object of the game is for Belen to look good.

Steven Tomita said that we are not going to look real good because our change has just really started. It is going to be positive because we are beginning to make an upwards curve instead of a stagnant or downward curve. He recommended that the county information be included.

Vice Chair Pete Armstrong said that he was driving around the county on the west side of the Rio Grande and between Belen and HWY 60 he was amazed at how many people are out there and how many of them are ranching, farming and all kinds of activities along those lines. He thinks that this is a vibrant county and he would like to capture that in this document.

Steven Tomita said that this document, at that time, just looked at Belen and did not plan or look at Belen's three mile jurisdiction. We should also be looking at that three mile radius and include that in this document. He said that they need to also look at the farming in this area because there are a lot of farmers that are getting into specialized produce and products now. He went over some of the employment numbers that were in the information provided in the packets. It was decided to use the Census information from 2010 and the projected number from 2016 on the table on page nine of the Comprehensive Plan. He suggested using the projected numbers from 2016 on Table 4 and 5 on page 11. He also suggested using the projected 5 year population numbers for the tables and charts in the document.

Vice Chair Pete Armstrong said that he would also like to add to these two charts is the fact that many folks that are going into the work environment are coming in from the Certification Programs that are now available.

The Commission talked about Figure 4 Nativity and Migration for 2000 Belen Residents, and spoke about removing Native, Outside the United States on the Place of Birth chart. They discussed putting in a Social Chart instead. The Social information was discussed and it was

decided that it should not be included in the chart. They decided to keep Place of Birth there without the one line on Native, Outside of the United States. A lot of the numbers and what they say are not good but are they really bad or are they just not good. Being foreign born was discussed. Some of the people who come from military families had kids while stationed overseas but are native to the US and even the State.

Steven Tomita said that if he was a big company looking at those charts, and they show that the major majority of the people are native to the state and area, this company would conclude that new people are not coming in and it would be a concern that the City wants to keep things the way they are. The City does not want to change and does not want to grow. If you show that there are people coming in it shows that the Community is evolving and wants to stay alive and grow. The City has a history and culture that they want to keep and at the same time we want to invite outsiders to come in so that our Community can grow and prosper. This document should show this. The charts are important.

They moved onto table 6, 7, and 8, which concerns the housing in Belen. Housing is important that any one coming in on the age of the structures and aging infrastructure. All three tables will be updated from the current Census numbers. Alternative energy needs to be added to Figure 6. Table 9 was discussed. It was said that this table show that the housing units are being occupied. We are not seeing a big population growth but showing that more and more homes are being occupied. The table does not provide enough information and needs to be more specific.

Chairman Steve Ethridge said that he would like to see the charts and tables first, then give the explanation of the data after.

It was decided to leave the tables and charts in the same format as they currently in. Labor Force information is very important and all numbers need to be updated to the 2016 census numbers. This shows that there is new things going on in the area and the type of educational programs are affecting the labor force. The software that MRCOG provided a license for was shown to enable the City to get a lot of Census information that is not available otherwise. It can also project information and show impacts. The print out that the Commission was provided with came from this program. The amount of people from Belen commuting to work needs to be added to the data. The different listed occupations in some of the tables was discussed. The government employees are not mentioned in the majority of the tables. In Valencia County there is a huge government employee presence. This needs to be shown on the tables where applicable. The commuting table needs to include the railrunner information and it needs to be mentioned in the text also. It is a widely used transportation system in this area. It was decided to end the discussion at this time. The Commission will review all the changes for the first 20 pages at the next meeting.

Steven Tomita said that staff would try to get as much of the changes they can in the time period.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### **Communications from the Commission and Staff**

Steven Tomita said that an offer has been submitted to purchase the apartments on the corner of Becker and 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Circle K has received bids for the removal of the homes that are to come down. They would like to break ground in December. The old Jake & Andres restaurant has been rented out. Another restaurant is slated to go in. The old Chinese King is being worked on for another

restaurant. It will be a Mexican buffet. There has been an inquiry into the empty lot on the corner of Reinken Ave. and Main St. A workshop, December 6, 2018 @ 6:00 P.M., will be held to discuss the I-25 Bypass development. Keter will be adding another assembly line, another warehouse, and another plant. They are looking at having this location for the distribution center for the southwest. Clariant is going to be dismantling a division of their plant and expanding their other manufacturing process. Government processes are getting in the way as far as Project Flight.

Chairman Steve Ethridge asked if Walmart has found a food vendor for the front vacant area at the front of their store.

Steven Tomita said that he has not heard of anything as of yet.

Chairman Steve Ethridge asked the Commission to come up with some names for another Commissioner. It looks like Commissioner Reeves will no longer be on the Commission. He hasn't attended the last 5 meetings.

Steven Tomita said that he strongly recommends that they go see Bohemian Rhapsody movie. He said it was a very powerful movie.

#### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the City of Belen Planning & Zoning Commission, Vice Chair Pete Armstrong moved to adjourn.

Commissioner Jim Lardner seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

The regular meeting of the City of Belen Planning & Zoning Commission adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Steve Ethridge

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Tomita, Planning & Economic Development Director



# COMPREHENSIVE

LAND



USE

PLAN



**Belen City Council**

Jerah Cordova, Mayor  
David Carte, Councilor  
Frank Ortega, Councilor  
Wayne Gallegos, Councilor  
Ronnie Torres, Councilor

**Belen Planning & Zoning Commission**

Steve Ethridge, Chairman  
Pete Armstrong, Vice Chair  
Gordon Reeves, Commissioner  
Claudine Montano, Commissioner  
Jim Lardner, Commissioner

**Contributing Staff:**

Steven Tomita, Planning & Economic  
Development Director  
Lisa R Miller, Planning & Zoning Administrator

**COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN**  
**for the**  
**CITY OF BELEN, NEW MEXICO**

Adopted by the City Council

This document was prepared by the City of Belen Planning & Zoning Commission.

City of Belen  
100 S Main St  
Belen NM 87002

## **PART I**

### **INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE**

A comprehensive plan is an official document that is adopted by a local government as a policy guide for making future decisions regarding the physical development and overall improvement of the community. The Plan indicates how the local residents and their elected officials would like the community to develop over the next 20 years and beyond. Moreover, a comprehensive plan is a legally binding document of the City that provides a basis for regulations and programs necessary to manage the current and future development of the City.

The ultimate purpose of this Comprehensive Land Use Plan is to present an array of strategies that will guide and manage future development in the City of Belen. The primary emphasis of this Plan is on land use activities as an indicator of health, character, and municipal functions in the community. An extensive public involvement process was conducted in the formulation of this Plan. Public meetings, workshops, individual surveys, and interviews of local citizens were used to reveal public opinions and attitudes concerning the present status and potential of Belen. The intent of this public participation was to ensure strong community support for goals and objectives and strategic action recommendations, which are incorporated in this Plan.

This Comprehensive Plan for Belen contains a "community profile" section which presents essential information on the regional setting, present character of development, local development history, population and housing statistics, local economy, transportation and circulation systems, and the major public services and facilities available to Belen residents. This Plan also contains trends and projections for population, housing, and employment that provide a basis for envisioning future development patterns and land use activities that define the community of Belen.

A key component of the Belen Comprehensive Plan process is the formulation of broad goals and specific objectives that imply a desirable future for the City. These goals, with their subordinate objectives, are presented in the following categories: Land Use: Distribution and Intensity, Housing, Transportation, Water Infrastructure, Public Services and Facilities, and Economic Development. These goals and objectives also set the stage for the more specific proposed strategic action recommendations. The purpose of the recommendations is to identify a variety of actions necessary to implement the Plan within critical (i.e., immediate), short, medium, and long-range timeframes. Implementation of this plan will be subject to the policy directives established by the governing body of the City, as deemed appropriate for the conditions and opportunities that may arise in the future.

## PART II

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

Prior to determining an overall plan for guiding and managing future development, it is necessary to understand and evaluate both the historical background and present-day conditions of the City. The subsequent community profile is an extensive overview of Belen, and is intended to establish a common understanding of the City and its inhabitants. This community profile describes the fundamental character of the City, with information and relevant statistics concerning the regional setting, present character of development, development history, population and housing, local economy, transportation and circulation, and community services and facilities that are available to Belen residents.

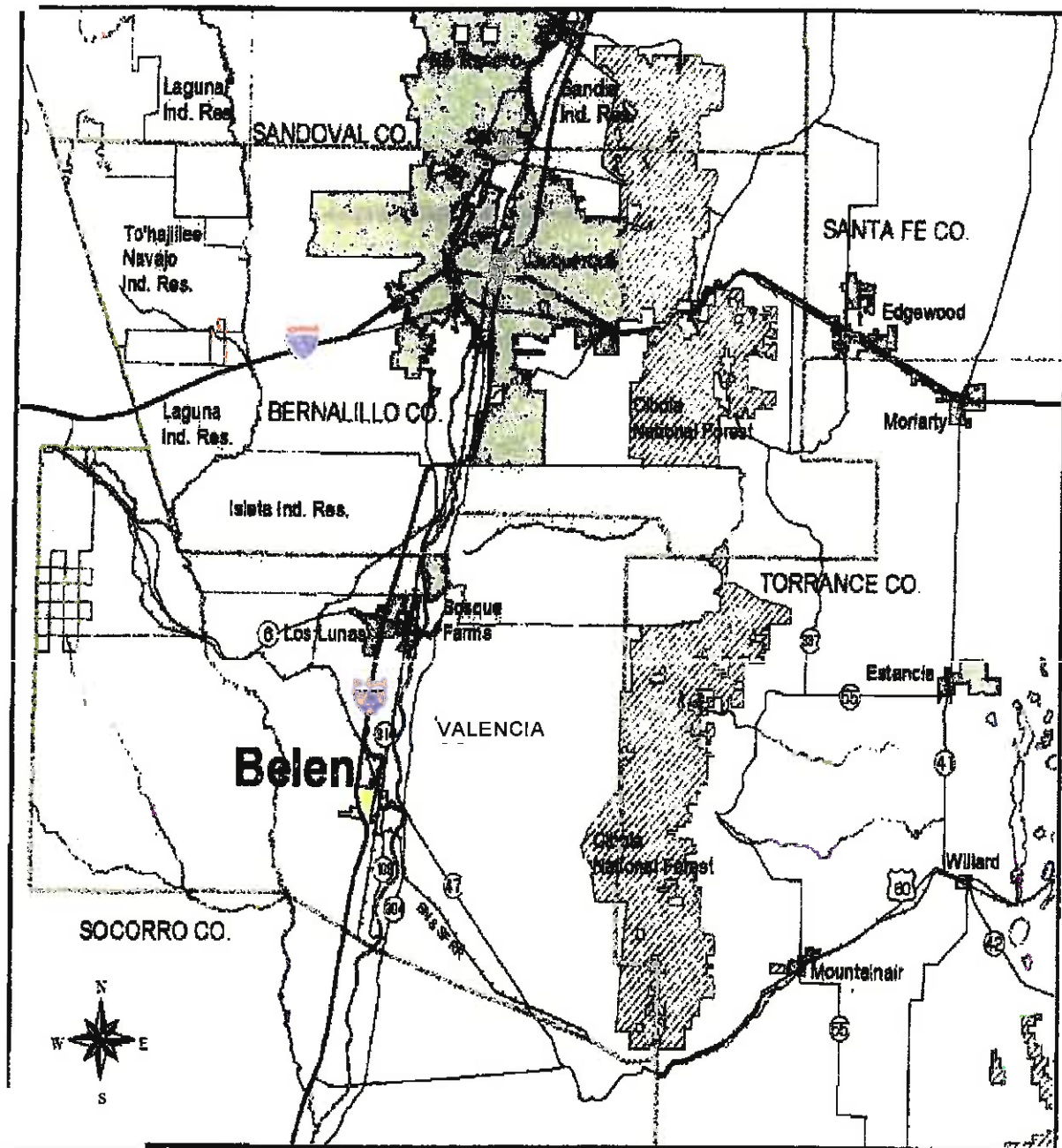
#### Regional Setting

The City of Belen is located in the southern portion of Valencia County; approximately 33 miles south of Albuquerque (see Figure 1). Geographically, the City of Belen is bordered on the east by the Rio Grande River and a gradually sloping plateau which leads up to the Manzano Mountains. To the west lies a mesa escarpment and uplands which form the divide between the Rio Grande and the Rio Puerco valleys.



Belen and Manzano Mountains

Belen's neighboring municipalities include Los Lunas, Bosque Farms, Rio Communities, Peralta, and the following unincorporated communities: Jarales, Adelino, Los Chavez, Pueblitos and Tome. Belen is the second largest municipality in Valencia County. The City is often referred to as the "Hub City" because of the numerous transcontinental freight trains that stop, refuel, and receive services in Belen. Belen is also situated on El Camino Real, which is a designated scenic byway and one of the oldest and most historic trails in the United States. El Camino Real (Royal Road or King's Highway) served as the main highway for the Spanish for over three centuries and extended 1,150 miles from Mexico City to Santa Fe. Interstate Highway 25 runs parallel to this historic corridor, and serves as the major roadway connecting Belen with Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, and El Paso. New Mexico Highway 314 runs through the middle of the City, serves as the City's Main Street, and connects Belen with Los Lunas (the County Seat). New Mexico Highway 309 runs east and west through the City connecting Belen with Rio Communities.



City of Belen  
Comprehensive Plan  
**Figure 1**  
Regional Map

5 0 5 10 Miles

## **Present Character of Development**

The urban form of Belen reflects a history influenced by both travel and transportation. The gridded street pattern adjacent to the railroad yards contains the historic business core of the community. Recent commercial and business development is spreading along the major regional highway corridors (N.M. 314, N.M. 309, and 1-25), and Camino Del Llano. This **linear** development is changing the character of the community, making it more dependent on vehicle trips. The major travel corridors run parallel to the river in a north-south orientation and in an **east-west orientation crossing the Rio Grande River**. In fact, east-west travel is inhibited by significant physical features; such as the Rio Grande, 1-25 and the railroad tracks.

Although Belen retains its small town character, there are a growing number of larger buildings and structures in the commercial and business areas. The City is experiencing greater density of development in the central business core area, yet there is dispersed development occurring in the outer portions of the City. Concurrently, the area of the City is expanding through annexation and is thus providing new lands for urbanization. In particular, the 1-25 corridor is inducing growth and pulling urbanization towards the western mesa.

**Development History** The earliest known settlements in the Belen area were established by Native Americans. With the coming of the Spanish in 1598, several ranchos were built in what is now Tome, Valencia (north of Belen) and Las Barrancas (south of Belen).

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Spanish set their eyes on the Rio Abajo lands because of its agricultural value in the valley of the Rio Grande. The upper portion of the Rio Grande, from La Bajada Hill north (near Santa Fe), was referred to as Rio Arriba, while the lower portion **of the Rio Grande**, from La Bajada Hill south to El Paso del Norte, was referred to as Rio Abajo.

In 1740, a Royal Grant by the King of Spain was given to Captain Don Diego de Torres, his brother-in-law, Antonio de Salazar, and 31 other Spanish settlers to establish the community of Belen. The settlers were given industrial land allotments that became their land after living on it for five years. The settlement was known as Nuestra Senora de Belen, or Our Lady of Bethlehem. Later, the community was referred to as simply Belen.

The Belen land grant was situated in the flat valley on the west side of the Rio Grande. Dry tablelands (**mesa's**) were found to the west and east of the valley and elevated to as much as 300 feet above the valley floor. Covering this tableland (**mesa**) were native grasses that became the grazing land for the herds of sheep of the Belen settlers. Though the Rio Grande was a slow-moving river, it deposited sediments in the valley around Belen for centuries, thus resulting in rich farmland.

Belen's section of the Rio Grande valley remains, even today, as some of the finest agricultural land in New Mexico. The plains surrounding the Belen area were ideal for stock raising, which figured prominently into the Belen economy at that time.

The Belen community thus developed with little difficulty. As the population increased, settlers began to disperse into ranchos throughout the fertile fields of the valley. These ranchos were built around a plaza (town square) that could easily be closed off, in case of an Indian attack. The settlers diverted water from the river to acequias (ditches) by using wooden shovels to channel the water flow. Farming adjoined the various plazas, and sheep, cattle, and horses grazed in the common lands of the grant.

There was a military presence in Belen throughout its earlier years. In the year 1750, a military outpost was established in Belen to protect the missions and haciendas located along the Rio Abajo from Indian marauders, which included the Apaches and Comanches from the east, and the Navajos from the northwest. Protection provided by the military against the Indians continued well into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Belen's last Indian raid was in 1864, when the Navajos swept into the City, driving off cows, goats, and sheep.

During Spanish and Mexican rule, sheep became the basis of the economy in the Rio Abajo. By 1840, New Mexico flocks had grown to an estimated one and half million sheep. By 1880, there were four million sheep, {most of which were located in the Rio Abajo) and this number did not decline until around 1910.

Historically, Belen has been known as a place of trade. El Camino Real ran along the east side of the river and linked Santa Fe with Mexico City. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, mission supply caravans composed of ox carts carried friars, settlers, mail, religious items, merchandise, and various other freight materials along the Camino Real. Fur trappers and traders followed El Camino Real throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Belen was a port of entry for caravans moving south to Parral, El Paso, Chihuahua, Durango, and Mexico City. A branch customs house was also established in Belen in the early 1800..-s. Traders from Santa Fe often conducted business in Belen with any merchandise not sold at Taos, Albuquerque or Tome. Mutton, dried beef, chili, onions, and beans were taken to Bernalillo, Acoma, Laguna, and Socorro in trade for wine, grapes, and other commodities.

As a result of its various owners, many flags have flown over Belen throughout the years. Originally under Spanish jurisdiction, New Mexico was annexed as a territory of Mexico after the Mexican Revolution of 1821. Although Belen was loyal to the Union, the Confederate flag flew briefly over the City from March to July 1862. Finally, in 1912, New Mexico was admitted to the Union as a state. Belen was incorporated in 1918, and Bernard Jacobson was the City's first mayor (1918-1922).



With the arrival of John Becker in 1871, the role of the merchant was introduced to the Belen community. Becker was a German immigrant who brought goods from outside of the region into Belen and in return sold the raw goods of the region to eastern manufacturing plants. Becker realized a railroad cut-off that ran through Belen would contribute greatly to the City's economy. Becker made an enormous contribution to Belen by donating the land needed for the cut-off and 40 percent of the costs.

The arrival of the Belen cut-off in 1907 created a major boom in Belen's economy. The railroad's route initially entered New Mexico over the Raton Pass. As a result of the extreme grade of the pass, several engines were needed to haul the train over the pass. In order to alleviate this problem, a cut-off was created in 1907 that linked Amarillo and Belen through Abo Canyon. The Belen cut-off eliminated the wear and tear on engines coming over the Raton Pass and also helped the railroad to double track from central Kansas to Belen, New Mexico. The cut-off also required the construction of a roundhouse, cooling station, shops, 100-ton ice plant, depot, and the Harvey House. All transcontinental freight trains were required to stop in Belen for refueling, water, and to change crews. The railroad became a magnet for the rural population surrounding Belen, in addition to luring many unemployed eastern laborers.

The construction of the Belen cut-off and its support facilities impacted the community economically, socially, and culturally. It also dramatically affected the community by transforming its status from rural to urban. The population increased 300 percent during that time, and many farmers and families came to Belen to work for the railroad.

~~Even today~~ The railroad has continued to support the Belen community typically with ~~In 1980, the Santa Fe Railroad employed about 380 workers, primarily~~ train operators, and mechanical and freight office personnel. In addition, hotels provided accommodations for out-of-town workers, restaurants provided their meals, and stores provided their clothing, medicine, and other needs.

The first automobiles came to Belen in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, thus creating a need for roads and bridges. Construction has been ongoing as the population and need has increased. After World War II the highway system was improved, which allowed citizens of Belen to commute to jobs in Albuquerque. In the early 1960's work began on I-25. The Interstate highway supports businesses that cater to travelers, such as hotels, gas stations and restaurants. ~~Auto-dealerships are also actively involved in sales throughout the region.~~

Commonly referred to as the "Hub City", Belen ~~is still~~ remains an economic and social hub for the surrounding region. ~~Belen has the only historic downtown area within Valencia County.~~ Many people in the outlying areas come to shop at the local stores, socialize and pray at the local churches, and visit the variety of businesses Belen has to offer. The Harvey House, an eatery in its

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former days located throughout the country, is today the only original such structure in the State still open to the public. The Harvey House is currently home to a museum ~~sponsored by the Valencia County Historical Society~~ owned and managed by the City of Belen.

### Population and Housing

Belen is a medium sized municipality located in southern Valencia County. The year 2000 Census population of Belen was 6,901 persons. Table 1 displays Belen's population and housing data from U.S. Census information from ~~1960 to 2000~~ 2000 to the projected population in 2015. Although Belen lost some of its population 2.58 during the 1960's, the City has been steadily increasing in population since the 1970's.

**Table 1**  
**1960-2000 City of Belen**  
**Population, Housing, and Households**

Year	Population	Housing Units*	Households	Belen Average Household Size**	National Average Household Size
1960	5,031	1,471	1,354	3.72	3.33
1970	4,823	1,719	1,477	3.27	3.14
1980	5,617	2,230	1,963	2.86	2.76
1990	6,547	2,622	2,310	2.79	2.63
2000	6,901	2,952	2,596	2.61	2.59

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census and MRCOG

\* Includes vacant units

\*\* A portion of the population does not live in households, but in group quarters, dormitories, etc.

**Table 1**  
**2000-2015\***  
**Population, Housing, and Households**

Year	Population	Housing Units**	Households	Belen Average Household Size***	National average Household Size
2000	6,901	2,952	2,596	2.61	2.59
2010	7,269	3,346	2,887	2.48	2.58
2015*	7,209	3,229	2,673	2.68	2.54

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

\* 2015-estimated totals

\*\* Includes vacant units

\*\*\* A portion of the population does not live in household, but in group quarters, dormitories, etc.

Another trend shown in Table 1 is the decreasing ratio of persons per household. National housing trends for decades have been toward smaller families, more childless couples, and more singles. Belen appears to be following these national housing trends, and coming very close to the national average household size.

The other incorporated municipalities in Valencia County are Bosque Farms, ~~and~~ Los Lunas, Peralta and Rio Communities. Belen was the largest municipality in Valencia County until the 1990's, when the Village of Los Lunas overtook Belen as the largest municipality in the County (see Table 2 and Figure 2).

**Table-2**  
**1970-2000 Population**

**~~Belen, Bosque Farms, And Los Lunas~~**

~~Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census~~

			<b>1970</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Belen</b>			4,823	5,617	6,547	6,901
<b>Bosque Farms</b>			—	3,353	3,791	3,931
<b>Los Lunas</b>			973	3,525	6,013	10,034

**Table 2**

**2000 – 2015\* Population**

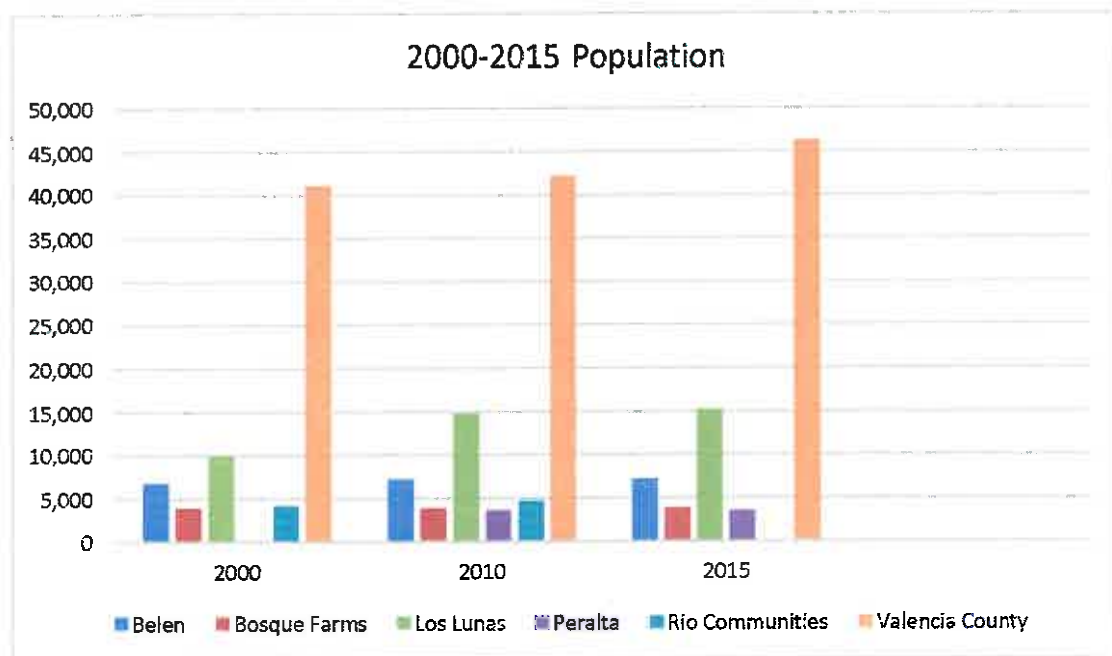
**Belen, Bosque Farms, Los Lunas, Peralta, and Rio Communities**

		<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015*</b>
<b>Belen</b>		6,901	7,269	7,209
<b>Bosque Farms</b>		3,931	3,904	3,864
<b>Los Lunas</b>		10,034	14,835	15,281
<b>Peralta</b>		-----	3,660	3,625
<b>Rio Communities</b>		4,213	4,723	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

\*2015-estimated totals

**FIGURE 2**  
**200-2015\* Population**  
**Belen, Bosque Farms, Los Lunas, Peralta, Rio Communities & Valencia County**



\*2015-Estimated totals

\*\*Valencia County Unincorporated Areas